

Amherst Human Rights Commission meeting April 15, 2010:

Present: Reynolds Winslow chair, Eunice Torres, director, Lois Raj, Victoria Oliva, Stefan Cejic, Mohamed Elgadi and Frank Gatti

Absent: Kathleen Anderson, Daniel Lee, Josiah Litant,

March 18, 2010 minutes accepted with minor changes

Nancy Foster a long time friend of the Amherst HRC was critically injured in an auto accident and is in intensive care at Bay State Medical Center.

Mohamed Elgadi presented an update on Darfur events

Girifna (fedup) movement in support of a boycott of Sudan elections.

Skype calls are planned to Michael Capuano, John Olver, Scott Brown.

In the Sudan there are Non-violent civil disobedience protests over Sudan elections

STAND chapters, world-wide college and high school groups in support of Sudan human rights, will be taking actions in response to these elections

Go the STAND website for details of when and where. www.standnow.org

Juneteenth, Community Gathering, scheduled for Saturday, June 12th at Mill Pond recreational center, during which the Young Hero awards will be presented.

Food will be potluck

There are funds for the awards

Young Heroes awards, Sharon Gross helping us but nominations can come from any group or individual resident. As an attachment is the letter explaining the criteria for nominees and the nomination form.

Annual HRC retreat

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Barbara Love will facilitate

Breakfast provided, please bring food for potluck lunch

Newspaper articles

We hope to have them every month or every other month

Reynolds has written a draft is asking for comments

Suggested for the next article is on Bullying that we discussed together.

Victoria, Stefan, Eunice and Frank each felt they would write either part or a full article for the newspaper.

Josiah Litant will be meeting with the five college collaborative program to plan a joint speaking program with the Amherst HRC on the topic of human rights in the fall to celebrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

RADR meeting with Maria Geryk the acting Amherst Superintendent of Schools was held. Reynolds reports that the meeting went well and he is hopeful that some action to alter the pattern of racial discrimination in the Amherst schools will be addressed.

Reynolds reported on the Enchanted Theater event on April 1st where 795 people came together to raise over \$40,000 for arts programs for low income family's children

Up Coming events:

April 16-18 David Ruggles Center honoring abolitionist David Ruggles on the 200th anniversary of his birth. Friday night Dr. Graham Russell Hodges of Colgate University is speaking on the life of David Ruggles. Saturday presentations of papers on the underground railroad and Sunday, a walking tour of the Northampton abolition sites. Details @ www.davidrugglescenter.org

Sunday, April 25th at the Amherst Regional Schools 2 pm the First Amherst Follies to raise money for the Amherst Senior Center, starring Bill Shontz, Donna Lee, Paisley Rowland, Jonas Cain, Larissa Hayden. Elaine Fligman, Kyle Ray an OLD TIME VARIETY SHOW, fun for the whole family. See attachment

NEXT HUMAN RIGHTS MEETING: Annual Retreat Bangs Center Saturday May 1st 9 am to 4 pm; regular meeting May 20, 2010, 7 pm @ BANG CENTER